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Friday, April 08, 2011

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Regulatory Reform
521 House Office Building
Lansing, MI

Subject: HB 4293 and 4294 Fireworks Bills

Dear Honorable Representatives:

My name is Benjamin Fortin. I am a Michigan Fireworks Hobbyist. I am writing you today to oppose as written, House Bills 4293 and 4294 currently before your committee. In general, as a hobbyist and professional I am for the legalization of 1.4G consumer fireworks for sale and use in the State of Michigan. A change to this outdated law is long overdue. Regretfully, this bill goes above and beyond regulating consumer fireworks, this bill has several serious flaws in distinguishing between "1.4G consumer fireworks" and "1.3G display fireworks" these are the different fireworks as defined by the federal government. Professional fireworks and consumer fireworks should be regulated separately as they are two very different things. Professional display fireworks can only be used under federal law by and individual licensed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to possess and use them. This bill makes critical errors in distinguishing between the devices and also contains technical errors such as in section (z) there is no provision for display fireworks when defining a "wholesaler". In addition, section 4 line 26-5 on page 5 endangers the entire industry as Display fireworks are not regulated and cannot meet **Consumer** product safety commission standards. These devices are not for consumers whatsoever. In fact, it is a violation of federal law for a consumer to possess these without BATF approval. It is very possible that communities and municipalities would not have a fireworks display under this provision as the companies that shoot those displays would be driven out of business.

Members of the committee, I ask you today to oppose passage of this legislation until it is corrected to co-exist with federal laws already in place. The errors in this text should and must be corrected to avoid unnecessary damage to the professional fireworks industry that already exists in Michigan.

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

Benjamin S. Fortin
Hobbyist Pyrotechnician